

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Delete the paragraph on page 4, between lines 1-2 of the specification.

Replace the paragraph on page 4, between lines 29-32 of the specification with the following:

The invention further pertains to an optical amplifier. ~~The optical amplifier according to the invention is defined in Claim 8.~~  
The optical amplifier of the invention is advantageously employed as a broad-band amplifier in the L-band for example in the wavelength range of 1570-1610nm of optical telecommunication networks.

Replace the paragraph on page 5, between lines 1-8 of the specification with the following:

The invention further pertains to a Tm-doped optical ~~fibre~~  
fiber. ~~The optical fibre according to the invention is defined in~~

~~Claim 9.~~—The double cladding layer provides extra guiding of the pump light. Hence, the pump light source, for example a semiconductor laser that emits predominantly at the pump wavelength in the region of 790nm needs not be accurately ~~focussed~~ focused to a spot size of about the core size of the ~~fibre~~ fiber, but a substantially larger than the core size. Further the double cladding allows the Tm-doped optical ~~fibre~~ fiber to be optically pumped in a multi-mode fashion, which the output radiation, or the amplified output radiation remains single mode.